

REMARKS

In the non-final Office Action mailed on October 4, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). In this response:

specification is amended;
claims 22, 25, 29, 34, 37, 40, and 41 are amended;
claims 23 and 35 are cancelled; and
claims 1-22, 24-34, and 36-46 are pending.

For the reasons set forth in detail below, applicant submits that the present application, including each of the pending claims is in condition for allowance.

Objection to Specification

While the Examiner has not objected to the Specification, the undersigned has amended the "CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(s)" section of the Specification starting from page 1 through page 3 and has added the Application Serial Numbers and/or Patent Numbers of the references. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of Claims 1-2, 6-7, 9-14, 17, 20-25, 29, 32-39, 42, and 45-46

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 6-7, 9-14, 17, 20-25, 29, 32-39, 42, and 45-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chin (US Pat. No. 5,872,783) in view of Chow et al. (US Pat. No. 6,169,742). The rejected claims include independent claims 1, 11, 22, and 34. Claims 22, 25, 29, 34, and 37 have been amended and claims 23 and 35 have been cancelled.

Regarding claim 1 and 11 the Office Action states that "Chin discloses a switch having ports connected to crosspoint switch of the switch, the crosspoint switch having inputs and outputs connected to the ports." The Office Action further affirms that "Chin fails to disclose the crosspoint switch having at least one output that is not connected to a port." The Office Action then contends that Chow fills this gap. However, Chow, as the Office Action itself admits, discloses connecting to a port used for management. On the other hand, claim 1 (similarly claim 11) specifically recites "the crosspoint switch having at least one output that is not connected to a port ... to connect the source port to the output that is not connected to a port ..." Therefore the combination of Chin and Chow does not cover what is recited by claims 1 and 11 and, hence, a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has not been established with respect to these claims. Accordingly, the undersigned requests the withdrawal of Section 103 rejection of independent claim 1 and 11.

Independent claims 22 and 34 have been amended to include the above mentioned limitation of claims 1 and 11 where the crosspoint switch has at least one output that is not connected to a port of the routing switch. Therefore, a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has not been established with respect to the amended claims 22 and 34 either and, accordingly, the undersigned requests the withdrawal of Section 103 rejection of amended independent claims 22 and 34.

Claims 2, 6-7, 9-10, 12-14, 17, 20-21, 24-25, 29, 32-33, 36-39, 42, and 45-46 depend from claims 1, 11, 22, and 34 and accordingly include the features of these independent claims. For reasons discussed above and for the additional features of these claims the undersigned requests their allowance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of Claims 3-5, 8, 15-16, 18-19, 26-28, 30-31, 40-41, and 43-44

The Examiner also rejected dependent claims 3-5, 8, 15-16, 18-19, 26-28, 30-31, 40-41, and 43-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chin (US Pat. No. 5,872,783) in view of Chow et al. (US Pat. No. 6,169,742) and further in view of Heil (US Pat. No. 6,944,152). Claims 40 and 41 have been amended.

Claims 3-5, 8, 15-16, 18-19, 26-28, 30-31, 40-41, and 43-44 depend from claims 1, 11, 22, and 34 and accordingly include the features of these independent claims. For reasons discussed above and for the additional features of these claims the undersigned requests their allowance.

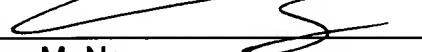
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, all of the claims pending in the application are in condition for allowance and, therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-6488.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 030048037US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: 12/1/05

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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